## Message Text

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**ACTION ARA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-05 RSC-01 DRC-01 /018 W

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R 182045Z JUN 74 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6945 USDOC WASHDC

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PASS TO NEWARK DISTRICT OFFICE - USDOC

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BDIS, AR

SUBJ: TRADE COMPLAINT - SWIFT DE LA PLATA

REF: A) BA-4053 B) USDOC 8567

- 1. SWIFT DE LA PLATA NOW REPORTS IT HAS RECEIVED TELEX FROM CONNELL RICE AND SUGAR CO PROPOSING THAT (1) SWIFT AGREE TO CANCELLATION OF PREVIOUS ORDERS TOTALING ABOUT \$800,000 AND RETURN TO CONNELL UNUSED LETTERS OF CREDIT WHICH HAVE NOW EXPIRED, (2) CONNELL WILL REORDER SAME CANNED MEAT PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL ORDERS, BUT AT PRICES 20-40 PERCENT BELOW EARLIER PRICES, (3) SWIFT ACCEPT SIMILAR PRICE REDUCTION ON OTHER LARGE ORDERS WHICH ABOUT TO BE SHIPPED UNDER L/C WHICH STILL VALID, AND (4) SWIFT GRANT TO CONNELL EXCLUSIVE WORLD-WIDE USE OF A SWIFT-OWNED BRAND NAME FOR PERIOD OF 15 YEARS. TELEX STATES THAT THIS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED BINDING OFFER BY CONNELL.
- 2. SWIFT CONTENDS IT WAS PREPARED TO SHIP PRODUCTS COVERED BY EXPIRED L/CS IN ACCORD WITH ORIGINAL ORDER BUT WAS PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY CONNELL'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PART OF DESTINATION AND/OR BRAND LABEL FOR SHIPMENTS, WHICH, UNDER TERMS OF L/C, WERE TO BE DETERMINED BY BUYER. PRODUCTS COVERED BY EXPIRED L/CS NOW SAID TO BE HELD IN LOCAL WAREHOUSE. SWIFT AWARE THAT PRICE ALL CANNED MEAT PRODUCTS HAS FALLEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHAPRLY IN US, BUT MAINTAINS THAT CONNELL STILL BOUND TO HONOR

ALL ORDERS AT ORIGINAL PRICES. ALSO STATES THAT EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO BRAND NAME, PARA 1 (4) ABOVE, WAS NEVER PART OF ANY PREVIOUS ORDER. SWIFT THEREFORE NOW QUESTIONING GOOD FAITH OF CONNELL IN THIS TRANSACTION, AND MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF RESTORING TO COURT ACTION.

- 3. EMBASSY REALIZES ABOVE REPRESENTS ONLY ONE SIDE OF DISPUTE BUT NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE RE CONNELL'S REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING SHIPPING INFORMATION PRIOR TO EXPIRATION OF LAST L/C. ARGENTINA VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT DECLINE IN MEAT EXPORTS AND LOWER WORLD PRICES. THIS, COMBINED WITH SWIFT'S SPECIAL POSITION AS ONE OF COUNTRY'S LARGEST MEAT PACKING PLANT, FOREIGN-OWNED AND NOW UNDER GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AS RESULT OF HIGHLY PUBLICIZED BANKRUPTCY CASE, COULD RESULT IN TRADE COMPLAINT SUCH AS THIS RECEIVING FAR GREATER PUBLICITY THAN IT DESERVES.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND/OR USDOC OFFICE NEWARK REQUESTED INQUIRE RE BASIS FOR CONNELL'S REPORTED FAILURE PROVIDE NECESSARY LABELING AND SHIPPING INFORMATION BEFORE EXPIRATION L/C AND SUBSEQUENT PROPOSAL TO REDUCE PRICES ON ALL OUTSTANDING ORDERS FROM SWIFT.

  MONTLLOR

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED NEWARK DISTRICT OFFICE.

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